

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 10 remain pending. In response to the non-final Office Action dated March 23, 2007, claim 1 is amended. Care has been taken to avoid adding new matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application as now amended is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 5 through 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,970,395 (Weiler) in view of U.S. application publication 2004/1006380 (Vassiliou). The Office Action recognizes that Weiler does not disclose processing transmission data by a receiver unit that with assigned symbols to state diagram of I-Q level or transmission of a digitized intermediate-frequency signal via a digital interface. Vassiliou has been relied upon to conclude that it would have been obvious to modify the Weiler arrangement to include these requirements of independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weiler in view of Vassiliou in further view of the Agilent publication “RF and Microwave PNA Network Analyzers.” The latter publication has been relied upon to conclude that features recited in the dependent claims would have been obvious provisions in the Weiler/Vassiliou combination.

In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that each high-frequency module is connected to the measuring-device unit via a digital interface for transmitting data to the at least one high-frequency module and that the processed input data originates from the measuring-device unit. It is submitted that claim 1 as amended, and the remaining claims that are dependent therefrom, are patentably distinguishable.

The object solved by the invention is to provide a system comprising: spatially separated at least one high-frequency module and a measuring-device unit, which (inter)communicated the

data to finally be exchanged with the a DUT via a digital interface, whereas the digital interface uses separated I and Q paths and an/the assigning of symbols to states in a state diagram of an I-Q (in phase-quadrature phase) level is carried out in the measuring-device unit or alternatively a digitized intermediate-frequency signal is transmitted via this digital interface. Since the interface between the high-frequency module(s) and the measuring-device unit is digital, the exchangeable high-frequency module(s) and the measuring-device unit can each be calibrated independently respectively and no negative influence on the signal quality due to expected long transmission path(s). Another advantage of the invention is that the data communication between the at least one high-frequency module and the measuring-device unit can be selected from a plurality of different standards according to the specific demands of the exchangeable high-frequency module.

The “input data” recited in claim 1 corresponds to the description, for example, at page 11, line 25 – page 12, line 19 of the specification. That is, “input data” are data for transmission via the digital interface to the high-frequency modules and not the signal received by the high-frequency modules originating from the device under test (DUT).

While Weiler discloses a digital interface for communication between a monitoring unit and a receiver unit, it does not include description of any I (in phase) or Q (quadrature) signal, or processing thereof. Vassiliou discloses separate I and Q paths for communicating the signals to be exchanged with the DUT between the transceiver and the processor, but this signal is transmitted between the transceiver and the processor solely via analog interface (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). Vassiliou reserves its digital interface for the calibration process and not for transmission of data to be communicated with the DUT (see paragraphs [0045], [0074]). There is no mention or suggestion in Vassiliou of assigning symbols to states in an I-Q diagram. Thus neither Weiler

nor Vassiliou, taken individually or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed subject matter.

Dependent claim 7 requires that the at least one high-frequency module is supplied with electrical energy via a power-supply unit independent from the measuring-device unit. In contrast to the Office Action, neither Weiler nor Vassiliou discloses a power supply for the high-frequency modules that is independent of the measuring unit. While Weiler discloses an independent power supply for the DUT (Figs. 4, 16), it does not disclose an independent power supply for the high-frequency module(s). This distinction of claim 7 is an additional basis for patentability.

Dependent claim 10 requires that control data or user data is transmitted in a standardized form via the digital interface, and the at least one high-frequency module comprises means for processing a high-frequency signal with regard to the transmission of data in standardized form via the digital interface or for processing the data transmitted in standardized form with regard to at least one predetermined transmission standard for the high-frequency signal. Weiler does not transmit or exchange data with the DUT, but only detects whether an interference signal lies within a prescribed frequency range and therein surpasses a prescribed threshold value (column 4, line 53 – column 5, line 9). Thus, no standards for data exchange with a DUT are disclosed. In Vassiliou, communication of data exchanged with the DUT between the transceiver and the processor is not digital but analog (Fig. 1, Fig. 2). Thus no standard for a digital communication is disclosed or suggested by Vassiliou. This distinction of claim 10 is an additional basis for patentability.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the

Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 519-9952 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 504213 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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